The A. F. of L. Weekly News Letter contains a brief summary of important matters affecting labor, occurring in the industrial, legislative, and judicial fields, and such other information that will benefit the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS LETTER

AGITATE ! EDUCATE ! ORGANIZE !

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CHILD LABOR TAX LAW IS NOT UNDERSTOOD

New York, May 31.—The child labor tax law, which was recently declared unconstitutional by Federal Judge Boyd of the western district of North Carolina, is misunderstood by the public, says Owen R. Lovejoy, general secretary of the national child labor committee. The law, which was an amendment to the revenue act, provides for a 10 per cent tax on the profits of establishments employing child labor, regardless of whether these profits are derived from interstate commerce or not. The Keating child labor law, which also was declared unconstitutional by Judge Boyd, and which was upheld by the United States supreme court, only applied to products of child labor placed in interstate commerce.

The confusion about the basis of the child labor tax law, according to Secretary Lovejoy, is because the age limit at which children can be employed is the same in both laws, which provide a 16-year age limit for work in factories, canneries and manufacturing establishments; a 16-year age limit for employment in mines and quarries; an eight-hour day and no night work for children between 16 and 18.

Regarding the action that will be taken by the United States supreme court on Judge Boyd's latest decision invalidating the child labor tax law), Secretary Lovejoy says:

"Unless the supreme court goes squarely back on its previous decisions, it will not affirm Judge Boyd's decision and declare unconstitutional the fact that congress sought to do by indirection what it could not do by direct prohibition, and that was to do with the case. Congress has in the past laid a prohibitive tax calculated to destroy the article taxed—notably in the case of oleomargarine, filled state bank notes and the manufacture of phosphorus matches. Its power to do this has been sustained by the court, and I have every confidence that the court will do the same in the third time in the child labor case."

ONE FIRM'S MEAT PROFITS.

Chicago, May 31.—Some idea of the tremendous supplies of meat furnished by the packers to the government during the war is given by the Tuday Packing company, smallest of the "big five" packers, in a memorandum submitted to the war department. The company reports that it made in 1918, after paying taxes, a profit of 1.3 per cent, practically the same rate of net profit as in the pre-war year 1914.

Deliveries of dressed beef for the army and navy from May, 1917, through December, 1918, totaled 35,586,655 pounds, which cost $3,465,-346.18. Of cured meats, 4,000,000 pounds were used, the total cost of which was $14,782,032.54. Bacon cost $1,957,321.41 and lard 1,000,000 pounds. During the latter part of the war the company furnished the government over 1,000,000 pounds of bacon per week. The total value of the volume of supplies furnished the government amounted to $41,-250,000. The number of pounds of meat sold the government was 72,000,345. The above figures represent what were called "set aside" 25 per cent of the company's total production.

By way of comparison of the Cuhady business with that of the other packers the United States sales of 1918 were $246,660,977, while sales of Swift & Co. for the fiscal year of 1918 were $1,260,000,000, and those of Armour, exclusive of business from Argentine plants, $861,000,000.

TO STUDY TUBERCULOSIS.

Washington, May 31.—Plans for an investigation into the mortality from tuberculosis in trades where dust is prevalent is announced by the working conditions service of the department of labor. The investigation is to be under the auspices of a committee named by the National Tuberculosis association.

Physical examinations and post mortem examinations as well as the study of death certificates of stonecutters and those employed in other dusty trades will be basic in the inquiry. Prevention problems will be taken up after the new material has been gathered. The care of tuberculosis cases will be left open for the present.

FINED FOR STRIKING.

Sydney, New South Wales, Australia, May 31. — Justice Edmunds, in a recent judgment under the industrial arbitration act, in connection with what he designated as an illegal strike of the employees of the Union of Piano Frame Molders and Sticks, imposed a penalty of £50 with costs. The union was ordered to pay £50 fine on each member involved in the strike. The justice said that union officials, when they had tried to prevent an illegal strike, had taken no steps to condemn it.

CLERKS GET AN AGREEMENT.

Richmond, Va., May 31. Federal Manager George W. Stevens of the Chesapeake & Ohio railroad and the adjustment board of the Brotherhood of Railway Clerks of the same line have signed an agreement.

The right of the men to join the Brotherhood of Railway Clerks and the recognition of that organization, security rights; the eight-hour day; the 30-day month; the double-time pay for all overtime; an adequate jurisdiction clause, and vacation periods were agreed to.

PAINTERS' WAGES ADVANCED.

Montgomery, Ala., May 31.—Union painters, decorators and paperhangers of Montgomery will receive 62½ cents an hour until May 1, 1920, under a new contract. Eight hours constitutes a day's work, with time and a half for overtime and double time for work on holidays. A conference board was formed to settle all matters not covered by the agreement.

FIGHT TO THE FINISH

Fort Wayne, Ind., May 31.—The building trades' council, servicing notice that hereafter all work in the construction of buildings in this city will be done on the non-union basis, the building trades' council has accepted the challenge.

SUPPORTING LABORERS.

St. Paul, Minn., May 31.—Sixteen unions, composing the building trades council, are on strike supporting the demand of the building laborers for an increase to 50 cents per hour, an advance of 10 cents, with a nine-hour day and union recognition.

Children Labor Still Taxable Rules Revenue Department

Washington, May 31. — The United States revenue department has ruled that the 10 per cent profit tax on establishments employing child labor will be collected, despite Federal Judge Boyd of North Carolina, who recently ruled that this act was unconstitutional.

The department says it has received no official information of the decision and will continue enforcing the law until the United States supreme court rules otherwise.

FOOD NEAR TOP NOTCH.

Washington, May 31.—Retail prices for food in the United States during the month of April were within 1 per cent of the highest point reached, which was in December of last year, according to a statement issued by the bureau of labor statistics of the department of labor.

Householders were forced to meet an increase of 7 per cent in the price of butter; 6 per cent in the price of lard; 3 per cent in the price of cheese and 2 per cent in the price of oleomargarine and crisco. Both fresh and salt pork took a jump of 5 per cent, cheaper in April than in March.

Of the really basic food commodities, flour for the first time since it advanced in price 6 per cent. Pork products declined 3 per cent as they did during the month; sirloin steak, hens and lamb increased 5 per cent each; rib roast and shank increased 4 per cent and plate beef 2 per cent.

Other articles which increased during April were: Cc.bbage, 72 per cent; onions, 15 per cent; potatoes, 7 per cent; bread, 3 per cent; milk, 2 per cent; bananas, 3 per cent, and eggs and coffee, 3 per cent each.

In April, 1913, the cost of 22 articles of food was 41 per cent higher than in April, 1913, and 86 per cent higher than in April, 1911.

SEEK SHORTER HOURS.

London, England, May 31.—At the annual delegate meeting of the National Union of Operative Printers' executive committee was instructed to take a ballot on the question of affiliation with the Printing and Kindred Trades Federation, and to effect an agreement if the ballot should authorize such action. It was pointed out that the benefits they had gained in the past had been on the back of the Typographical society.

In the matter of hours of labor, the following resolution was passed: "That it be an instruction to the international executive committee immediately to take action for securing shorter hours of employment on the following basis: A seven-hour day for night workers, and a 44-hour week for night workers, and a 34-day week of not more than 25½ hours for day workers and at not more than 7 hours for night workers."

FORM CONTRACTING CO.

Seattle, Wash., May 31.—Members of Carpenters' union No. 1538 have formed a contracting company and hope to be able to erect non-union lockouts in the future. The new company is affiliated with a capitalization of $30,000. The shares will be owned by union carpenters. The company aims to build homes and to do general contracting business. Stockholders will be given preference in the matter of employment.

The company will also buy timber and operate sawmills in order to eliminate all profits which now go to the middlemen. Another object of the company intends to take the timber in the woods, manufacture it into lumber with which to construct houses and sell them to their fellow laborers for anyone who wishes to buy on easy terms and at prices consistent with good work and the best of material.

BUILDING TRADES WINNING.

Detroit, Mich., May 31.—The Masters' association has signed a wage agreement with the Establishment of Local 199 which gives the workers 75 cents an hour.

The box makers are now receiving an advance which gives the sawyers, ripsaw men, machine operators $1 and 92 cents an hour.

Sewer and waterpipe contractors are paying union wages and others are signing every day.

Nearly 3,000 electrical workers remained idle 29 days to secure a wage advance and reduced hours.

HANDLE FARM PRODUCTS.

Fargo, N. D., May 31.—The state industrial commission has appointed the following men for the handling of farm products: Frank Vogel, Minot, Mill and Elevator association, and Frank Wilson, Fargo, Equity Co-operative exchange. The commission will have authority to appoint two more members. Under the law, which was passed by the North Dakota legislature at the last session, the commission is given extensive authority by the state legislature. These bonds are being offered for sale to the citizens.

REJECT ROYAL DOODADS.

Ottawa, Canada, May 31.—The spirit of Canadian democracy was shown in the house of commons when action was taken to reject the offer of England to refrain in the future from conferring titular distinctions upon persons living in Canada.

Premier Borden, in giving the reasons for the action, stated that the commoners' action means the end of titled aristocracy in the dominion.

WILL "STUDY LABOR."

Atlantic City, N. J., May 31.—The National Electric Light association is the latest organization to announce that there is such a thing as a "labor problem." A committee has been appointed to study the question and present a report next year. Speakers declared that this question leads all others in importance.

REFUSED AN INCREASE

Halifax, Canada, May 31. — The building trades presented the contractors a demand for a minimum wage of 60 cents an hour, which followed and all the workers threw down their tools and left the job.

STEEL TRUST COWS TOWN.

Donora, Pa., May 31.—A new ordinance has been adopted by city council prohibiting labor the use of music in the streets or in halls and denying its representatives the right to free assemblage or free speech. One of the largest subsidiary companies of the steel trust is locating here.

HIGH PRICES WON'T END.

Washington, May 31.—There is no immediate prospect for lower living costs, according to Julius Rosenwald, of Sears Roebuck company, in a letter to Secretary of Labor Wilson, the Chicago mercantile expert says:

"It is my belief that the range of prices for the necessities of life will average little, if any, lower than at the present time. Of course, there will be some exceptions, but I do not look for a sudden or violent reduction in the near future aside from those which have been artificially stimulated.

"There exists a tremendous demand in our own country for all kinds of commodities. This demand will not only diminish materially until war-wrecked Europe re-establishes herself on a peace-time production basis, but I fully agree with those who believe that the reconstruction is going to be a long efforts perhaps even harder than did the war, and that there is cause for rejoicing in these conditions, even though accompanied by high prices, for, after all, it is not a question so much of the price one has to pay as of the relation this price bears to one's own income."

On the same subject Otto H. Kahn, New York banker, writes to Secretary of Labor Wilson his belief that prices will be materially lower within a small number of years, if at all, and that not all practical purposes at least the war has brought a new level of prices, the existence of which must be recognized.

The New York banker quotes Professor Irving Fisher's own words:

"Business men should face the facts. To talk reverently of 1913-1914 prices is to speak a dead language today."

BRONZE SYMBOLIZES LABOR.

Washington, May 31.—"Triumph of Labor" is the title of an interesting bronze that has been on exhibition in a public art gallery in this city.

Two years ago it was presented to the American Federation of Labor by the French Chamber of Deputies, but owing to the war it has never been on exhibition before. On his recent return from Europe President Gompers brought the gift with him.

The bronze is the work of a British artist, and has been awarded a medal by the royal academy of art of Great Britain. The central figure of the bronze is symbolic of labor's triumph. The victory is represented by a male figure, standing on a dying octopus. In the rear of the figure are endless processions, and on either side are symbols of the various trades. The bronze is mounted on a slab taken from the ship Victory, commanded by Admiral Nelson at the battle of Trafalgar in 1805. The bronze will be moved to Atlantic City, where it will be viewed by the delegates to the A. F. of L. convention, and then placed in the A. F. of L. building in this city.

CO-OP. STORE SUCCESSFUL

Sydney Mines, N. S., Canada, May 31.—The fourth annual report of the British Canadian Co-operative society, Ltd., contains a table showing the progress of the store from the first to the twelfth year of its existence. The total sales of society rose from $16,912.18 during the first year to $457,264.84 in the twelfth year. The membership increased from 88 to 1,550, and share capital from $1,525.00 to $68,692.45, while the amount paid in dividends rose from $238.42 in the first year and $71,029.81 in the twelfth year. The aggregate trade amounted to $2,561,625.84, while interest paid on capital amounted to $3,434.00. The sum of $12,000 has been returned to the consumers as dividends, while the sum of $12,000 has been transferred to the reserve fund out of the surplus revenue.

EIGHT-HOUR DAY PAYS.

Victoria, British Columbia, May 31.—Production costs are less under the eight-hour day than when 10 hours was the rule, declared Paul R. Thompson, of the Foundation Ship building company, testifying before the Royal commission investigating labor conditions. He suggested that there should be compensation for a man forced into idleness because of weather conditions.

The commission was appointed by the Dominion government and consists of seven members and includes Tom Moore, president of the Canadian Trades and Labor Congress, and W. Bruce, general organizer of the United Brotherhood of Carpenters, Plumbers and Steam Fitters.

HELLO GIRLS FORM UNION.

Galesburg, Ill., May 31.—A telephone operators' union has been formed here with a large percentage of the girls signing the application for a charter issued to them by the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers.

Atlanta, Ga., May 31.—A union of telephone operators has been organized in this city and active work will be undertaken to secure members. A ship to the other 200 not yet on the roll of the new union.

WILL REMAIN HIGH.

Washington, May 31.—That business men throughout the country generally acknowledge the advent of a permanently higher level of prices and wages is shown by the answers to a questionnaire on this subject submitted to industrial leaders by Secretary of Labor Wilson.

The consensus of opinion from those who have written Secretary Wilson is that living costs cannot be permanently higher scale of wages.

REFUSE U. S. AWARD.

Elizabeth, N. J., May 31.—The department of labor has assigned a conciliator in the dispute between iron workers and the Federal Shipbuilding company, but the company has refused to accept an eight-hour award by the national war labor board.

STRIKE AT CHARLESTON.

Charleston, S. C., May 31.—Building operations in this city are at a standstill because contractors have declared for the open shop. Construction is at a standstill.

WAGE INCREASE COMING.

Duluth, Minn., May 31.—The plumbing and steam fitters will receive an advance of 50 cents a day after July 1, their wages being increased from $6.50 to $7 a day.

CLOSE ON SATURDAYS.

Washington, May 31.—Department and other large stores in the national capital have agreed to close all day Saturday during the months of July and August.

AUTO PLANT TIED UP WANTS LONGER WEEK

Toledo, Ohio, May 31.—The Overland automobile plant, failed to break a lockout of its employes by attempting to operate its plant. It discovered its mistake when the engineers and firemen suspended work.

For three years this plant has been operating on a 45-hour a week basis and a month ago the company gave notice that 48 hours would hereafter prevail, and locked out those who refused to accept it. About 15,000 workers in this and allied plants declined to lengthen their hours, and they are now idle.

The company refused to accept this offer as a basis for a settlement.

"All former employes to be reinstated to former positions, the hours of labor to be 48 per week, and after the resumption of operations the company to meet with duly elected committees, in an effort to adjust the wage scale and other shop rules."

Business interests are lined up with the strikers and every attempt has been made to becloud the issue, which the strikers show is as follows:

The eight-hour day with Saturday afternoon holiday, which has been in effect for the last three years.

A minimum rate established to old employes against being displaced by cheaper help.

Shop committees selected by employes on their own time to be recognized in the adjustment of grievances.

In answer to the company's claim that the wage demands would total $12,000,000 the strikers quote the company's figures to show that the company would still have $1,320,000 to distribute as net dividends.

The strikers quote the company's statement that it had been in effect for the last three years.

STREET CARMEN RAISED.

Steubenville, Ohio, May 31. — The board of arbitration acting on the demand of the Steubenville division of the street carmen, which had been appointed by Steubenville, East Liverpool and Beaver Valley Traction company awarded an advance of five cents an hour to all employes, effective as of May 1.

Dubuque, Iowa, May 31.—The demand for the 44-hour week by the Railway Employes' union made on the Dubuque Electric company was granted by the board of arbitration. About 75 per cent of the men secure a 44-hour week and all the remainder of the older employes will receive an hourly increase of from 11 to 13 cents.

Muskogee, Okla., May 31.—A union of the street carmen has been organized, nearly all the company employes making application for association. The wages of the street carmen in Muskogee will have to be the lowest in the United State.

PROBE NIGHT BAKING.

London, England, May 31.—The minister of labor has appointed a committee "to inquire into the practice of night baking in the bread baking trade in England and Wales and to report whether it is desirable in the interests of the industry and of the community that the practice should be abolished or modified." The request is for organized delivery workers the hearings will be kept open.

This action is in the line with the governments of Spain and France, which have abolished night baking.

Chicago, May 31.—Organized bakers throughout the country are meeting with considerable success in abolishing night work in baking. In many instances strikes are being waged.

WOOLWORTH STORE STRIKE.

Chicago, May 31.—The girls employed in the Woolworth store were recently organized and made a demand for increased wages and shorter hours. When it was rejected the girls walked out of the store. Wages paid was from $4.50 to $9 per week. It is contended by the girls that is the rate paid in nearly all the stores of this company in the various cities. It will be recalled that the head of this company, F. W. Woolworth, is the richest man in the world, his fortune of $60,000,000. Its accumulation is declared by the strikers to have been paid employes and the slavish condition exacted.

LESS MINE FATALITIES.

Washington, May 31.—The United States bureau of mines reports that there were 2,719 deaths in the mines in and around mines during February, 1919, as compared with the same month in 1918, when 3,000 were killed in the year included. The figures are: 1918 in February, 2,915, 214 in February, 1918.

During the first two months of the year 5,619 were killed in the mine accidents in the United States. During the corresponding months of last year there were 621 fatalities. This is a total decrease of 97 fatalities during the two months.

ADVANCES CONCEDED.

Troy, N. Y., May 31. — Electrical workers' wages were raised 10 cents an hour, 10 cents less than demanded. Helpers only settled with contractors for 44 cents an hour. A strike was called demanding an advance to 57½ cents an hour. Wages of $1 a day were paid. An agreement with contractors which advances wages from 44 a day to 57.

PAINTERS WIN INCREASE.

Toronto, Canada, May 31.—The strike of the painters, decorators and paperhangers was settled successfully and a rate of 65 cents an hour is established, all contracting painters being affected.

TO DESTROY UNIONS

Havana, Ill., May 31.—The Crescent Forge and Shovel company and the Havana Metal Wheel company have closed down because the employes organized.

ENGINEERS RAISE WAGES.

Rochester, N. Y., May 31.—A large number of employers have accepted the new 44-a-day rate of Steam Engineers' union No. 37.

GET 80 CENTS AN HOUR.

Beaver, Pa., May 31.—Carpenter contractors and carpenters' unions have agreed to a new wage rate of 80 cents an hour.

UNIONS WITH "TEETH" DEPEND ON WORKERS

New York, May 31.—The American Teacher, official magazine of the American Federation of Teachers, is not fooled by the flattery bestowed on the newly-formed unions of teachers, and makes this comment, which can apply to other newly-formed unions:

"It has been the fortune of some locals of the American Federation of Teachers to begin their careers under the blue skies of general public approval. Ministers of religion, the superintendent of schools, and the important newspapers have been quick to recognize the infant local.

"Usual things are always objects of approval, until they begin to grow teeth.

"Other locals seem to start under a spell of indifference, as if their genesis had been overlooked by those who followed parentage. No one acknowledged their birth except the warm heart of labor. Alone and unsupported by the formalist, representatives of public opinion, and the press, and by the bureaucracy, their youth is characterized by a precocious aloofness and a spirit of independence which sometimes make them seem unlovely young things.

"But the entrenched friends of today and yesterday will be standing ready to claim the outcast a brother. And both are the children of labor."

INFLATED CURRENCY.

Chicago, May 31.—The world is glutted with government securities which include both bonds and the medium of circulation known as currency and the sooner we begin the process of paying both the sooner can we figure on lower living cost, says a local banker writing in the American Contractor.

The banker calls attention to the difference between funding and constructive purposes, as has been done in the past among the nations preparing for the purpose of creating new assets or wealth.

"If a customer," he says, "borrows $100,000 from his bank and the amount is immediately loaned to the public both the loans and the deposits of the institution are increased to that extent. The note of the borrower represents an obligation to make repayment at the bank on demand or at maturity. It has been given a credit balance upon which to draw for present use."

BUTCHERS WIN 48 HOURS.

New York, May 31.—The Brooklyn Packers' association and the Amalgamated Meat Cutters and Butcher Workmen's unions, Nos. 174 and 211, have signed an agreement affecting 1,500 employes of sausage making and packing plants get the 48-hour week and a $2 a day increase. All of this skilled men and a week for the laborers. One of the features in the contract reads that no laborer shall get less than $25 a week.

The agreement calls for time and a half for overtime, five holidays and a board of arbitration. Another clause says: "We grant the 5-hour basis day, also the Saturday afternoon, except in weeks where holidays occur the guaranteed time shall be 25½ hours."

REPORTERS ORGANIZE UNION.

Montreal, Canada, May 31.—Reporters on the French and English newspapers have organized and filed with the charter from the International Typographical union. It is claimed that this is the first newspaper writers' union formed in Canada. The purposes are: To promote the professional and general interests of its members by organizing a higher professional standard, by fixing the rate of pay and remuneration, by regulating the hours of work, and by providing adequate compensation for overtime and special work."

FAVOR SIX-HOUR DAY.

Louisville, Ky., May 31.—Delegates to the annual meeting of the Amalgamated Association of Iron, Steel and Tin Workers have voted unanimously in favor of a resolution to reduce the working hours from eight hours a day to six hours a day with a view to providing sufficient work to take care of the men in the army and navy service who are being returned to civilian life.

SUFFRAGE WINS EASILY.

Washington, May 31.—The federal amendment for women suffrage was passed by the house of representatives by a vote of 304 to 32, or 47 votes over the two-thirds majority. On February 10, 1915, the house accepted the Susan B. Anthony amendment by a vote of 274 to 136, which was just the required number. The amendment is now before the senate.

WANT AN EIGHT-HOUR DAY.

Toronto, Canada, May 31. — The Street Railway Employes' union has notified the Toronto Railway company that after June 16 it will insist on agreements for a straight eight-hour day, a 55-cent and hour scale and time and a half for overtime.

ACTION RECONSIDERED.

Quebec, Canada, May 31.—The Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners made a request for a wage increase and the increase was granted by the employers. A strike resulted. Now the increase is put in their envelopes each week.

GIVEN $3 ADVANCE.

San Diego, Cal., May 31.—Brewery Workers' union No. 7 was given an advance, dating from May 1, of 50 cents per day, making the scale $8 for an eight-hour day.

URGE RETIREMENT BILL.

Washington, May 31.—A civil service retirement bill was indorsed at a meeting of the executive council held in the A. F. of L. building. The bill will be introduced by Congressman Lehlbach of New Jersey, chairman of the house committee on reform in the civil service, and includes several new features as compared with the McKellar-Keating bill, which was reported to both houses in the last congress, but failed of passage.

Under the new bill the optional age for retirement shall be 62 years for clerks in the respective classes, 65 years for those receiving $720 a year or less than $150 a year. The 2 1-2 per cent deduction from the salaries of those participating in the retirement fund is retained.

The bill returns provides for retirement of those who become physically or mentally incapacitated for efficient service after reaching the 64 years in the respective classes.

The age limit is raised from 64 to 70 years, and those who remain in the service after reaching the age limit shall receive the same salary as when retirement age. This section has been carefully drawn and is intended to protect both the employes and the government.

CARPENTERS RAISE WAGES

Indianapolis, May 31.—General Secretary Frank Duffy, of the Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America, announces that current wage gains by affiliated locals: New York, 80c to 90c per hour; Shelbyville, Ind., 48c to 55c; Windsor, Canada, 72½c per hour; Jamestown, N. Y., 55c to 60c; Jamestown, N. Y., and Sandusky, O., 60c; Hastings, Neb., 60c to 70c; Bridgeburg, Canada, 55c to 75c; Indianapolis, floor layers, 75c; Oct. 15, 1919, 80c; May 1, 1920, Galesburg, Ill., and Bay City, Mich., 65c to 70c; Amherst, Mass., 60c; New Brunswick, and Ottawa, Ontario, 56c to 60c; Detroit, Mich., 70c; and pattern makers, 75c; pattern makers, 60c to 62c; Dillon, Mont., $7 a day; Louisville, Ky., mill men, 55c to 60c; Ridgefield, Conn., 55c to 65c; Great Neck, N. Y., 62½c; Madison, N. J., 62½c to 65c; Washington, D. C., 87½c; Cleveland, O., 80c to 90c; Lima, O., 90c to May 1, 1920; Dupage county, Ill., 65c to 80c; Youngstown, O., 75c to 85c.

Joliet, Ill., 80c; Peoria, Ill., furniture workers, which involved several thousand workers, and a score of factories, has been settled.

IMPROVED COMPENSATION.

Trenton, N. J., May 31.—The amendments to the workmen's compensation law provide for improvements in several respects. The maximum of compensation has been increased from $10 to $12 weekly, and the minimum from $5 to $6 weekly.

From two weeks, the waiting period before compensation begins has been reduced to 10 days. Medical benefits, limited to four weeks instead of two, and may be still further extended by the industrial board.

The industrial board has power also to compel the insurance carriers, the corporations who without payments. Claims for compensation may be made to the provisions for determining dependency and average wage.

NEW MINIMUM WAGE.

San Francisco, May 31.—The state industrial welfare commission has established a new minimum wage at 35 cents an hour for piece work in fruit and vegetable canneries. This is 5 cents more than the present. The order provides that no woman or female minor shall be employed in preparation of fruits or vegetables in the canning industry at a rate of wages less than 35 cents an hour for 8 hours.

Previous to this order the average rate paid by canneries for time work was 12½ cents an hour. The first canning concern to commercially has raised the minimum to 16 cents for unskilled workers, and in 1918 this was increased to 20 cents.

PAPER MILLS RESUME.

Glens Falls, N. Y., May 31. — The strike which began on the refusal of the International Paper company to grant a wage advance has been temporarily suspended, the men returning to work when the company agreed to submit the matter to the Brotherhood of Paper Makers and the Brotherhood of Pulp, Sulphite and Paper Mill Workers in conference to negotiate a settlement. All of the mills of the International Paper company are involved in the controversy, which is counted to the conference demanded.

BOYS BEING RELEASED.

Tamaqua, Pa., May 31.—Hundreds of boys who were employed in and around the mines and manufacturing plants in this district are being released from their jobs. This action is the result of a warning sent out by Secretary Lewis Meredith, that the child labor law would be rigidly enforced, despite the fact that Judge Body, of North Carolina, declared it unconstitutional.

$7-DAY AND 44-HOUR WEEK.

New Orleans, La., May 31.—The 44-hour per week and 8½ cents an hour increase in the pay envelope has been secured from employers by Hoisting Engineers' local No. 59, affiliated with the International Union of Steam and Operating Engineers. Workers' Union No. 56, which makes the daily wage $7. The minimum wage for apprentices is 50 cents an hour.

DIFFERENCES ADJUSTED.

Peoria, Ill., May 31.—The plumbers and steam fitters have compromised differences with their employers and decided on a wage scale of $7.50 a day for journeymen and $4 for helpers. The agreement submitted helpers in the future.

BUILDING TRADESMEN WIN.

Paterson, N. J., May 31.—Building craftsmen have won a victory in the strike and secured a wage increase for the various trades.

GAIN 44-HOUR WEEK.

Montreal, Canada, May 31.—The Pattern Makers' union has established the 44-hour week.

BRITISH CO-OP. MOVEMENT EXTENDS PRODUCTION FIELD

Washington, May 31.—Since the armistice was signed a new interest has been developed in the British co-operative movement, reports the United States Trade Commissioner H. G. Brock, stationed at London. The department of commerce has made public this report, which states that there are over 2,500 of these societies in operation with a total membership of over 3,500,000 families. The total sales, plus and reserve capital of over $375,000,000.

"These are the societies," says the commissioner, "who are to have a favorable influence on the future of production in Great Britain. Controlled prices have helped rather than hindered the movement, since in the case of the controlled commodities, for which everybody must apply at certain retail price, members of the co-operative society have an advantage over non-members in that they receive a dividend on all purchases. The operative stores are the only stores paying such a dividend, and this fact alone has been an excellent argument to prove the soundness of the co-operative system.

"The number of members of individual co-operative societies has shown a fair increase, and in the case of the Scottish Co-operative wholesale society (Ltd.), with headquarters in Manchester, England, and the Scottish Co-operative society (Ltd.), with head offices at Glasgow Scotland, the increase has been the most important single units in the co-operative movement in Great Britain. The British society com-

menced business on May 14, 1906, and the Scottish society on September 3, 1868. The latter society in both societies is made up entirely of individual co-partnership trade societies.

Up until the past two or three years the contract between the co-operative societies and the trade unions has not been satisfactory. Recently, however, there has been a definite move on the part of both unions to do their banking business with the banking department of the co-operative societies, and an important scheme of agriculture and industrial development, which will shortly be announced by the society, is said to be believed, toward establishing a closer working arrangement between the co-operative societies and the trade unions.

"Among the projects contemplated under a development-bond scheme is the acquisition and operation by the society of flour mills, tanneries, boot factories, soap and shoe factories, corn mills, dairy farms and similar enterprises. Most long ago the co-operative wholesale society began the manufacture of textiles.

"The co-operative movement foreshadowed is the acquisition of large coal fields, and the Scottish society already owns a coal mine near Newcastle. During the war the society has also raised and equipped a merchant fleet and has also a number of farms lands and factories."

Co-operative bonds, ranging in amounts from $100 to $5,000, and totaling $12,500,000, are now being issued to carry out the scheme. These bonds will bear 5½ per cent interest and will be redeemed at the end of 10 years."

TRUST HEAD IS FUNNY.

Pittsburg, Pa., May 31.—Judge Gary, head of the United States steel corporation, has developed a humorous streak. He says his company does not fight labor unions.

Answering a request by President Tighe of the Amalgamated Association of Iron, Steel and Tin Workers, that the corporation meet with its employes, the trust magnate refused.

"As you know," he said, "we do not confer, negotiate with or combat labor unions as such."

President Tighe wrote the letter under instructions by the steel workers' convention, which insisted said that many members of the steel corporation were employed by the steel trust, and that "these men feel sure that they be given consideration by the trust because you are the honorable chairman of the board of directors." Judge Gary and also as law-abiding citizens we desire to confer with you having their representative men or with chosen representatives to jointly confer and investigate that mutually concern both."

NATURAL SEQUENCE.

Bloomington, Ill., May 31.—Last year there were 21 strikes in Bloomington in a period of 19 months—more than in Chicago, Peoria or Rockford, and were among unorganized employes, and were the exorbitant cost of living. Fifteen were successful in the matter of union organization, but every one of these organizations is successful in not working under union shop agreements. The building trades council of Bloomington all last year in an established which had a union shop agreement with its employers, and these employes gained increased wages and shorter hours. Their labor organizations in Bloomington last year secured better hours and working conditions for their members, one half by striking, the other half in a peaceful way by negotiating with employers and without a day's interruption of employment.

PERU HONORS GOMPERS.

Washington, May 31.—Organized workers of Peru have forwarded to President Gompers a copy of a Spanish embassy in this city, a testimonial bearing their signatures as an expression of their admiration for the efforts of the A. F. of L. executive in behalf of labor.

In a letter to President Gompers, Julio A. Casteret, secretary of the Artisans' Federation of Lima, Peru, says:

"I respectfully salute you and at the same time wish to inform you that in the name of the workers of Peru I send our ambassador I am prompted to do so because of the great work you have effected you feel for Peru."

BIG CO-OP. BUSINESS.

Prince Albert, Canada, May 31.—In the year ending December 31, 1918, the United Grain Growers and the Saskatchewan Co-operative Elevator company handled a total amount of 102,000,000. The major part of this amount, 75,000,000 bushels, or 73.53 per cent, was delivered to the terminal elevator at Port William and has 345 elevators in three provinces.

GET $1 AN HOUR.

East Liverpool, Ohio, May 31.—Bricklayers who have been idle for two weeks because of a disagreement with their employers over a new wage scale, have won. The new scale is $1 a day, which is the full scale they demanded.

The carpenters and plumbers who are asking for a wage of $7.20 and 8 hours a day, have not yet reached an agreement.

FURNITURE WORKERS WIN.

Rockford, Ill., May 31.—The furniture workers' strike is on winning. Since April 1 voted to return to work, the factories are opening and many of which give them a 50-hour week with no hourly pay. Their original demands were for a 44-hour week and time and a half for overtime. Their struggle has resulted in securing 10 hours less per week and decided advantages.

ENTIRE FORCE UNIONIZED.

San Francisco, May 31.—The entire force of the Angel Island immigration station, numbering 100 men, has been unionized, according to announcement made by the labor council.

REFUSE TO ARBITRATE.

Fort Worth, Texas, May 31.—The Texas Power and Light company's refusal to submit the wage dispute with the electrical workers resulted in local workers to extend the strike to all departments of the company in this city.